

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEWISH COUNCIL ON URBAN AFFAIRS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, JCUA, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

From its inception in 1964, the enduring mission of JCUA has always been to combat poverty, racism, and anti-Semitism, working in partnership with Chicago's diverse communities. Guided by the Jewish principles of "tzedek" (justice) and "tikkun olam" (repairing the world), JCUA has reached across faith, race, and class to pursue social and economic justice for those most affected by poverty and discrimination.

JCUA has been an active and leading voice in Chicago for five decades. During that time, JCUA has facilitated the development and preservation of thousands of units of affordable housing, advocated for public policies that address the root causes of poverty, and educated and mobilized a Jewish constituency to create a more just Chicago.

During JCUA's 50 years of working in Chicago's diverse communities, it has also fostered deep relationships and built an understanding and trust with the organizations with which they partner. By bringing Jewish voices and Jewish participation to their issues—as partners and allies—JCUA continues to tackle root causes of injustice to create positive systemic change.

While the specific campaigns, issues, and challenges in Chicago have changed, poverty and racism continue as modern day plagues, creating enormous obstacles and threatening the humanity of everyone. Today, JCUA pursues social and economic justice through issue-based campaigns, community investment, and building bridges between the Jewish community and communities challenged by poverty and discrimination.

JCUA's Community Ventures Program provides zero-interest loans to spur the creation of affordable housing and economic development projects. One loan recently allowed St. Leonard's Ministries to help open the doors of Gracie's Café in partnership with St. Leonard's Ministry, providing jobs and training for formerly incarcerated men and women.

Through ongoing solidarity and partnership with grassroots community groups, JCUA demonstrates that effectively addressing the root causes of social injustice in partnerships and in coalitions with those directly impacted is the most effective way to combat systemic oppression.

JCUA's Jewish Muslim Community Building Initiative, in partnership with Muslim groups, continues to build strong bridges between Jewish and non-Jewish communities. These relationships help to dissolve barriers of potential bigotry and ignorance and to foster a culture of genuine understanding and respect.

And finally, JCUA plants seeds for a better future through its teen social justice program, Or Tzedek, engaging youth as active leaders and organizers in current social justice campaigns. Or Tzedek provides teens with inspiration and the know-how to be powerful and effective agents of social change.

The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs remains as relevant today as it was 50 years ago—serving as an essential Jewish voice for social justice. I join others in the Chicago area offering my gratitude for JCUA's five decades of service.

HONORING KEVIN BAKER

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Kevin Baker, an American History teacher from Springfield, Missouri, who led his 30th annual school trip to Washington, D.C., this spring.

On March 11, 2014, Kevin completed his 30th school trip to Washington with a group of nearly 100 students from Pershing Middle School in Springfield, Missouri. While in Washington, the students visited the Capitol, Library of Congress, Smithsonian museums, and the many monuments along the National Mall celebrating our heritage.

It is no easy task to plan and coordinate a trip involving such a large number of students and parents, but the support of the Springfield community helps make these trips a continued success, including the help of Anne Lanzilotta, the group's tour guide for the last 28 years, and his fellow teachers Scott Corn and Cale McAninch who have assisted him on the annual trips for the last 15 years.

Kevin's passion for American history runs through his family. His wife Valerie and two sons Tristan and Trevor have attended multiple trips and not only encourage his efforts, they enjoy them. Kevin continues the tour of the capital because he wants all of his students to experience the history of our country through the monuments, museums, and memorials, as well as to share that love for country, that awestruck feeling he received every time he traveled to Washington. He credits his work ethic to the examples set by his parents, Luther and Joyce, and the support he received growing up from his younger brother Dwight.

Kevin hopes that these annual trips will motivate or inspire some of his young students to return to Washington as elected officials and embrace new ideas for the future of our great nation. He credits the Springfield community for making so many of these trips possible. The education of a child is a once in a lifetime experience, and the immersion into our history and political process makes the efforts well worth it.

RECOGNIZING JOHNNY HARRIS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Johnny Harris Restaurant of Savannah, which will celebrate the 90th anniversary of its founding this May. This barbeque joint has been a mainstay for the people of Savannah since it opened its doors as a simple roadside establishment on May 1, 1924, and it

has always been one of my favorite spots in Savannah.

The Johnny Harris Restaurant is one of the oldest food service providers in the city. Much to the amusement of native Savannahians, the restaurant has a long history of serving its customers with entertainment in addition to excellent food and legendary barbeque sauce. When Johnny Harris, founder and namesake of the restaurant, first moved to the Victory Drive location, there was a small zoo directly behind the property. His wife, Mrs. Harris, often took of the zoo's monkeys on carriage rides around the neighborhood to the delight of local children.

For Johnny Harris, the customer has always been the number one priority. It was the first restaurant in Savannah to install an air conditioning system for its dance floor as well as a revolving bandstand. It remained in business through the Great Depression and is exemplary of hard work, perseverance, and hospitality of Savannahians. I am proud to congratulate Johnny Harris Restaurant as it celebrates this historic milestone.

CONDOLENCES REGARDING MINE EXPLOSION IN TURKEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the recent mining disaster in Soma, Turkey, which has now claimed 301 lives, and I extend my deepest condolences to the people of Turkey who struggle to make sense of this unfortunate accident. My thoughts and prayers are with both the families mourning the loss of their loved ones, and with the injured as they begin their long journeys to recovery.

Turkey is a longstanding friend and ally of the United States. From the Cold War to the fight against international terror, we have stood together against challenges and threats and we stand again in solidarity with our Turkish friends at this very difficult time. On behalf of myself and my constituents, I wish to offer the people of Soma, and the people of Turkey, our deepest sympathies.

RECOGNITION OF EXEMPLARY ACT PERFORMANCE

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 10 outstanding high school seniors from Carroll County, Tennessee. These scholars were recently recognized by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce for their academic excellence in scoring a 29 or better on the national ACT test. This accomplishment ranks the students among the top seven percent in the nation of all the students who took the ACT exam.

I commend—Brandon Barker, Micah Bullock, Dan Hoffman, Joshua Howell, Corey Kleppe, Joshua Malley, Robert Medford, Katelyn Ridley, Lucas Simmons and Kelsey